

His Majesties
Most Gracious
S P E E C H
To Both Houses of
PARLIAMENT.

At the Opening of the Parliament at Oxford
Monday the 21th day of March 168^o.



Printed at the THEATER in Oxford.

REV. J. W. WALKER

MOD. O. L. M.

PAID BY

PAID BY

PAID BY

PAID BY

PAID BY

PAID BY

PAID BY

PAID BY

PAID BY

PAID BY

PAID BY



His Majesties
 MOST GRACIOUS
 S P E E C H
 To both Houses of
 PARLIAMENT;

At the Opening of the Parliament at *Oxford*,
 On Monday the 21th. of March, 1682.

My Lords, and Gentlemen,



THE unwarrantable Proceedings of the last House of Commons, were the occasion of My parting with the last Parliament; for I, who will never use Arbitrary Government My Self, am resolv'd not to suffer it in Others: I am unwilling to mention Particulars, because I am desirous to
 A 2 forget

(49)

forget faults; but whosoever shall calmly Consider, what Offers I have formerly made, and what Assurances I renew'd to the last Parliament; how I recommended nothing so much to Them, as the Alliances I had made for preservation of the Generall Peace in Christendome, and the further Examination of the Popish Plot, and how I desir'd their Advice and Assistance concerning the Preservation of Tanger, and shall then reflect upon the strange unsuitable Returns made to such Propositions, by Men that were call'd together to Consult; perhaps may wonder more, that I had patience so long, then that at last I grew weary of Their Proceedings.

I have thought it necessary to say thus much to You, That I may not have any new Occasion given Me to remember more of the late Miscarriages: it is as much My Interest, and shall be as much My Care, as Yours, to preserve the Liberty of the Subject; because the Crown can never be safe when That is in danger: and I would have you likewise be Convinc'd, that neither Your Liberties nor Properties can subsist long, when the just Rights and Prerogatives of the Crown are invaded, or the Honour of the Government brought low and into Dis-reputation.

I let You see, by My calling this Parliament so soon, that no Irregularities in Parliaments, shall

shall make Me out of Love with Them; And by this means offer You another Opportunity of Providing for Our Security here, by giving that Countenance and Protection to Our Neighbours and Allies, which You cannot but know They expect from Us, and extreamly stand in need of at this instant; And at the same time give one Evidence more, that I have not neglected My Part, to give that Generall Satisfaction and Security, which, by the Blessing of God, may be attained, if You, on Your Parts, bring suitable Dispositions towards it; And that the just Care, You ought to have of Religion, be not so manag'd and improv'd into unnecessary Fears, as to be made a pretence for changing the foundations of the Government.

I hope the example of the ill success of former heats, will dispose you to a better Temper, and not so much to inveigh against what is past, as to consider what is best to be done in the present Conjunction.

The further Prosecution of the Plot, the Tryall of the Lords in the Tower, the providing a more speedy Conviction for Recusants, And, if it be practicable, the ridding Our selves quite of all of that Partic, that have any considerable Authority and Interest amongst them, are Things, though of the
 B highest

highest Importance, that hardly need to be recommended to You; they are so obvious to every Man's consideration and so necessary for Our security; But I must needs desire you, not to lay so much weight upon any One Expedient against Popery, as to determine that all Other are ineffectual; And among all your Cares for Religion, remember, That without the Safety and Dignity of the Monarchy, neither Religion nor Property can be preserv'd.

What I have formerly, and so often Declared, touching the Succession, I cannot Depart from. But to remove all reasonable Fears that may arise from the Possibility of a Popish Successor's coming to the Crown, if Means can be found, that, in such a Case, the Administration of the Government may remain in Protestant Hands, I shall be ready to hearken to any such Expedient, by which the Religion might be preserv'd, and the Monarchy not Destroy'd.

I must therefore earnestly recommend to you, to provide for the Religion and the Government together, with regard to One another, because they Support each other: And let Us be United at home, that We may recover the Esteem and Consideration We used to have abroad.

(7)

I conclude with this One Advice to you,
That the Rules and Measures of all your
Votes, may be the Known and Establish'd
Laws of the Land, which neither can, nor
ought to be departed from, nor chang'd, but
by Act of Parliament; And I may the more
reasonably Require, That you make the Laws
of the Land your Rule, because I am resolv'd
they shall be Mine.

FINIS

*For the original of this
piece see vol. 8 of the
History of the 3rd Charles
2nd. folio 100
I have not seen it
since it was printed
in 1680*